

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. In the afternoon of 16 July 1955 Nikolai A. Bulganin, Georgi K. Zhukov, Nikita S. Khrushchev, and several other Russians in civilian clothes attended a conference in the offices of the SED Politburo in Berlin. The building was heavily guarded by a strong detachment of the KVP, and a special guard of Soviet officers was on duty outside the conference room. Among the German conferees were Otto Grotewohl, Karl Schirdewan, and Erich Mückenberger; Walter Ulbricht was not invited to attend.
2. Khrushchev seemed to be in charge of the meeting. Bulganin also made some remarks, but Zhukov appeared to be present only in the capacity of an observer. A number of the points made by Suslov and Kaganovich at a meeting on 2 July were repeated.
3. Khrushchev expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that after the meeting of 2 July, Ulbricht had attempted to telephone Khrushchev in Moscow direct from Ambassador Pushkin's office. Pushkin had refused to allow Ulbricht to place the call. Subsequent conversation between Pushkin and Grotewohl had revealed that Ulbricht had informed no other Politburo member of his step. Khrushchev stated that he disapproved of such tactics.
4. Khrushchev said the SED Politburo had failed to comprehend the change which Soviet policies have undergone. He accused the Politburo of actions which tend to make an understanding between East and West more difficult. Specifically, he expressed vigorous opposition, in view of the present situation, to intensification by the SED of curbs on travel and communications between East and West Germany. He also said he was extremely disturbed by the continuing practice of imposing the death sentence in East German treason trials. He pointed out that the Russians did not insist on an abrupt and immediate change in all these matters, but remarked that so far Comrade Ulbricht had succeeded very well in ignoring the relevant directives to the SED Politburo.
5. Bulganin stated that the Soviet Union will attempt to bring about an East-West détente without altering the present territorial situation. He said the Russians are prepared to make economic concessions in the former German eastern territories if the West will guarantee that Germany will not attempt to recapture these areas by force.

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